



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
PACIFIC WEST DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
UNIT 15006  
APO AP 96271-5006**

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and DoDEA Employees,

Schools play an integral role in protecting the health and safety of our students and employees. Our school settings provide familiar environments and predictable routines that foster quality teaching and learning.

For the past week, senior leaders of DoDEA, USFK, and installation commanders have methodically examined the conditions that must be in place to ensure a safe reopening of installation schools. We take this responsibility seriously.

This thoughtful analysis has included the development and refinement of a number of mitigation measures consistent with the USFK medical community, KCDC, USCDC and WHO guidance to ensure our schools are ready to facilitate a safe return of students when we reopen. Those mitigation measures include:

- Hand sanitizer stations in each classroom;
- Classrooms wiped down frequently with sanitizing wipes;
- Seats and desks spaced appropriately to increase social distance;
- Screening for students prior to boarding school buses or entry to school;
- Buses sanitized after each student drop-off;
- Deep sanitation of hallways, large rooms, and outside of lockers daily;
- Appropriate protocols in place for handling a student or employee who displays symptoms of the virus at school.

After meeting with USFK officials this week, a decision was made to continue the closure of our schools in Korea for the coming week, March 9-13, 2020. Our school principals, in concert with command and medical officials, are working hard to return students to create a safe zone in schools that satisfies the mitigation criteria that has been established. Schools will reopen when we are satisfied with the mitigation efforts put in place.

Progress will be reviewed weekly and we will provide an update to you by next Friday. Teachers will continue their efforts in the coming week to provide ongoing learning experiences for students.

The safety and well-being of our students drives every decision we make in our DoDEA schools. We understand and share everyone's concerns about schools reopening, as well as appreciate your patience and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Arrington".

Dr. Jeff Arrington  
District Superintendent